by Dylan Horrocks

Pickle

№7

FOR MATURE READERS

AN EXTRAVAGANZA OF NEW ZEALAND CARTOONING

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Black Eye

Pickle

Nº 7, AUGUST 1995

by **Dylan Horrocks**
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Back cover:
Cover from *Lady Night* No. 5, May, 1995, drawn by Lou Goldman

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"From now on I do not want progress."
—Stan Lee
(at a Marvel writer's meeting, quoted later by Steve Englehart)

This issue is dedicated to Cornelius Stone.

Special thanks to Terry Fleming, David Billinghurst and Peter Rees for assistance on issue 6. Thanks also to Lars Cawley, Tim Bollinger and Panic Print (Auckland).

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Letter from Hicksville.

Oh my, where to begin! This has been such an eventful few months already! The biggest news of course is the arrival on January 25th of little Louis Eruera Horrocks Fleming. Louis has already begun contributing to Pickle by chewing vigorously on the corner of page one. And he's charmed all of Hicksville with his mischievous grin.

The other news is less good: It seems that Barney and Abraham, the co-authors of Café Underground are having a bit of a disagreement, which means that this issue we have no episode of Café for you. As a consolation, however, we've included another page from Barney's Cartoon History of Aotearoa. I've also asked Abe and Barney to write a little piece explaining the nature of their argument, which you'll find below.

This issue we thought we should give you a bit of a glossary and also a background to the story so far, since even some of us Hicksvillians are finding things a bit confusing at times! Also you will find the second part of Debs' Hicksville Hit Parade special on America, featuring some of the finest from West Coast to East. Next issue we will present a special New Zealand Hit Parade, since so much has come out recently that deserves a mention.
In the meantime, if you want to know more about Antipodean cartooning, you can order issue one of a new fanzine on the topic, Black River Chronicle, put out by Dylan and Lars Cawley. It costs a mere NZ $2.00 (plus postage: $1.00 NZ/Australia, $2.00 overseas.) and contains news, reviews, strips and a listing of most comics coming out here. Also available (for NZ $1.00 plus postage) is the New Zealand Comics Directory, published by the fine people at the Canterbury University Comics Society, with an alphabetical listing of people and groups involved in comics in NZ. Both can be ordered from us here at Pickle's NZ P.O. Box (see below).

So, without further ado, I hope you enjoy this issue, and I promise we'll have more letters again next time!

Yours with tea and scones,

Dolan Hicks

Dolan Hicks (Mrs.)
c/o Pickle, P.O. Box 5512, Wellesley St., Auckland, New Zealand

The Story So Far:

HICKSVILLE | Leonard Batts, a comics journalist from Comics World magazine in America, is writing a book about world-famous comics creator Dick Burger, who rocketed to success with his first Captain Tomorrow graphic novel several years ago. Curious about Burger's early years, Leonard has travelled to Hicksville, New Zealand, Burger's home town, a remote settlement on the East Cape. However, upon arriving, Leonard discovers that no-one in Hicksville is willing to talk about Burger, with the exception of Mrs. Hicks and Sam Zabel. Over a cup of tea at the Rarebit Fiend Café, Sam offers to show Leonard an autobiographical strip he has done about his friendship with Burger, called "Stars".

STARS | In Part One of "Stars" (see issue 6), Sam meets a young student called Sally, and they go out for coffee. Once home, Sam gets a phone call from Dick Burger, who is flying to New Zealand to hold a party at the exclusive Sheraton Hotel. He invites Sam to the party, telling him to bring some of his work along to show the many agents and publishers who will be there.

CAFE UNDERGROUND | Written by Abraham and drawn by Barney, Café Underground recalls Auckland in the year Halley's Comet loomed unseen overhead —1986— when Abe and his friends spent their time at parties and cafés searching for love and excitement. Then one night a mysterious stranger, Gabriel, appears on the scene and before long he has begun seducing Abe's friends. After a series of strange events, Abe comes to a sudden and frightening conclusion: Gabriel is a vampire. In addition to drawing Café Underground, Barney is also working on a Cartoon History of Aotearoa, an excerpt of which appeared in issue 3.

MONDAY...
STARS
Part 2
by: Sam Zabel
GOOD EVENING, SIR. MAY I SEE YOUR INVITATION?
er - WELL, I DON'T ACTUALLY HAVE AN INVITATION...
I'M SORRY, SIR. THIS FUNCTION IS BY INVITATION ONLY.
YES, YES, I KNOW. BUT YOU SEE DICK JUST INVITED ME LAST NIGHT OVER THE PHONE. DIDN'T HE PUT MY NAME ON THE COMP'S LIST OR SOMETHING?
I'M AFRAID THERE IS NO 'COMPS LIST' SIR. I'M GOING TO HAVE TO ASK YOU TO LEAVE.
IS DICK AROUND? I'M SURE IF YOU'D JUST TELL HIM I'M HERE HE'D SORT THIS OUT...
THIS GUY GIVING YOU TROUBLE, BOB?
UH-OK-LOOK-UH-DON'T YOU WORRY ABOUT A THING. I'LL JUST GO AWAY AND FORGET ALL ABOUT IT. I MEAN, HELL, I DON'T EVEN LIKE DICK THAT MUCH ANYWAY...
SAM!

SAM - WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING CHATTING TO THE BOUNCERS WHEN THERE'S A ROOMFUL OF PUBLISHERS AND BABES TO CRUISE?!
I'M SORRY, MR. BURGER, SIR - WE DIDN'T REALISE THIS MAN WAS A FRIEND OF YOURS...
...
THAT'S OKAY BOYS! JUST KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!
JESUS, DICK! YOU COULD'VE SENT ME AN INVITE OR SOMETHING.
Thank you, sir...
INVITES ARE FOR NOBODIES, SAM. I DON'T BOTHER WITH THAT SHIT WITH MY FRIENDS! NOW SHUT UP AND GET YOURSELF A DRINK, HERE!
BOLLINGER, SIR?
AH... TA.
SO, UH, DICK - HOW'VE YOU BEEN?
WELL, CAPTAIN TOMORROW JUST PASSED THE 3 MILLION MARK, ETERNAL'S MARKET SHARE KEEPS CLIMBING, AND WE JUST CLINCED A NEW DEAL FOR 2 MOVIES! I'VE BEEN OKAY!!
SIR, THERE'S A MR. McFARLANE ON THE PHONE FOR YOU...
TELL HIM I'M BUSY!
?
SO WHAT ABOUT YOU, SAM? STILL DRAWING MISERABLE CARTOONS ABOUT BEING BROKE ALL THE TIME?
I GUESS SO. AND ALSO A WEEKLY MOXIE AND TOXIE STRIP FOR 'LAFFS' MAGAZINE.
OH YEAH? SO WHAT DOES LAFFS PAY?
UH - THIRTY DOLLARS FOR ONE PAGE.
HA HA HA HA - MAN, THAT HURTS!
...BEFORE TAX.
DICK! HOWAYA, DICK?!
...er...
YEAH, YEAH, GREAT, STAN. GOTTA DASH. CATCH YA LATER, SAM.
B-BUT DICK - WHAT ABOUT MY PROPOSAL, DICK? HAVE YOU HAD A CHANCE TO...

heh heh
er
EXCELSIOR, KID!
?
OH MY GOD, LOOK AT ALL THESE PEOPLE! THIS REALLY *IS* THE *BIG TIME*... WHAT AM I DOING HERE? NO-ONE'S GOING TO BE INTERESTED IN ME. AND HELL, WHY DID I BRING MY PORTFOLIO? MAYBE I SHOULD HIDE IT UNDER MY JACKET SO I WON'T LOOK LIKE SUCH A LOSER...
oops!
CAN I HELP YOU WITH THOSE?
...
I'LL TAKE THAT AS A YES.
ARE YOU A FRIEND OF DICK'S?
YEAH, WELL - WE GREW UP TOGETHER, SO I GUESS WE *USED TO* BE MATES.
OH YEAH? WHAT WAS HE LIKE AS A KID?
OH, ALRIGHT - KIND OF NERDY, I GUESS, BUT A LOT NICER THAN HE IS NOW...
THAT WOULDN'T BE HARD. *HI* - I'M CINCINNATI WALKER.
UH - SAM ZABEL. HI.
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN! IF I COULD HAVE YOUR ATTENTION PLEASE!
WHAT'S THIS?
SHOWTIME.

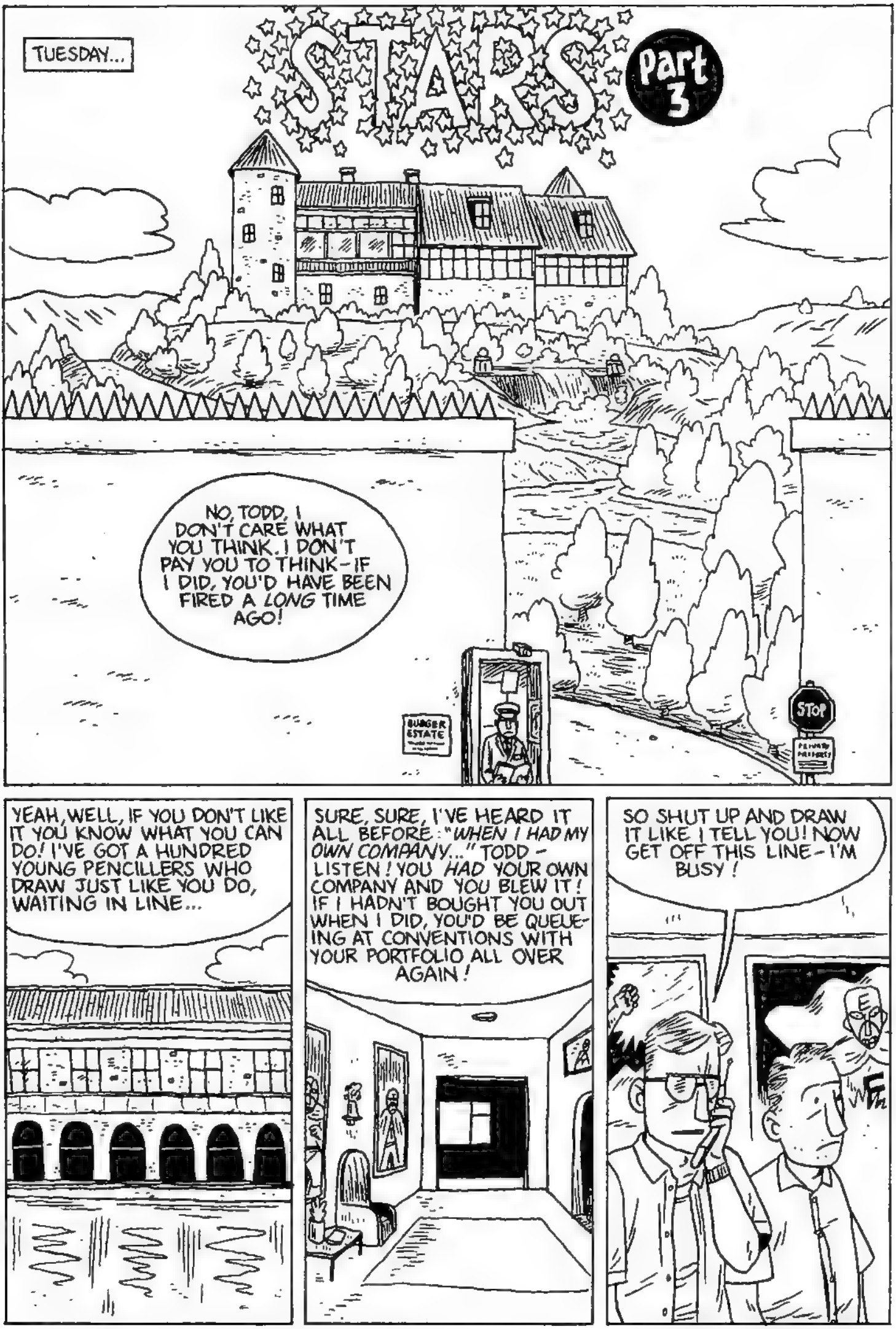
WELCOME TO THE SHERATON, AUCKLAND, LADIES & GENTLEMEN. I KNOW MOST OF YOU HAVE COME A LONG WAY TO BE HERE TONIGHT AND I HOPE WE CAN MAKE IT WORTH THE TRIP.
ON A PERSONAL NOTE, MAY I SAY HOW PROUD I AM THAT MR. BURGER HAS CHOSEN *OUR* HOTEL FOR THIS AUSPICIOUS OCCASION. THANK YOU AND ENJOY YOURSELVES
BUDDA BDOOM-TISH!
Dick Burger
HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU! HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!
HIP HIP HOORAY
SHIT! I FORGOT IT'S DICK'S BIRTHDAY! HE REALLY TAKES STUFF LIKE THAT PERSONALLY...
YOU FORGOT? HOW THE HELL DID YOU GET TO BE *HERE* WITHOUT KNOWING IT'S DICK'S BIRTHDAY?!
THANKYEW THANKYEW ALL!
... IT'S A LONG STORY...
I'M REALLY TOUCHED BY YOU COMING ALL THIS WAY TO MY HOME COUNTRY TO CELEBRATE THIS VERY SPECIAL OCCASION WITH ME: THE BIG THREE-O!
SO - LET'S PARTY!
ROAR
GOOD GRIEF!
IT'S QUITE A PARTY. WANT A DANCE?

er... NO, THANKS, I-I DON'T DANCE, REALLY, AND - er - I'VE GOT ALL THIS STUFF...
WAITER!
TAKE MR. ZABEL'S COAT AND THINGS TO THE CLOAK-ROOM.
...
YES, Ms WALKER.
UM - I DON'T USUALLY -
ME NEITHER. DRINK UP.
OOOHHLALA LALALALALA
GENTS
SORRY GIRLS - YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO WAIT FOR ME OUT HERE - THIS IS MEN'S BUSINESS!
Tee Hee Hee Hee Hee!!
?
SAM, M'MAN! SOME PARTY, HUH?!
HAPPY BIRTHDAY, DICK. I'M SORRY I HAVEN'T GOT YOU A PRESENT OR ANY-THING - YOU KNOW HOW USELESS I AM...

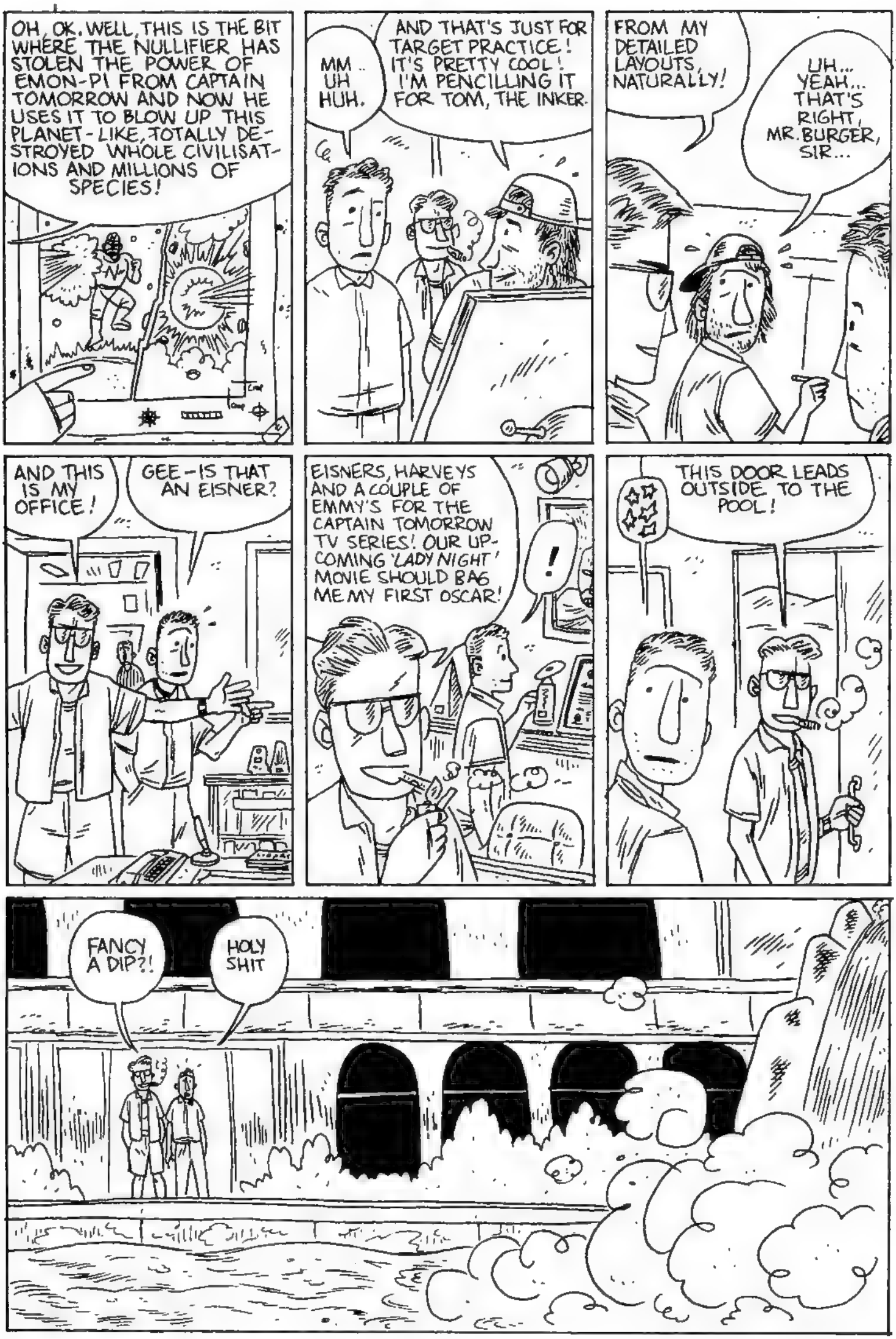
YEAH, YEAH, I KNOW! SHIT, SAM, I DON'T MIND!
YOU DON'T?
HELL NO! LOOK-WE'RE BUDDIES, RIGHT? ALWAYS HAVE BEEN! AND NOW THAT THINGS ARE GOING WELL FOR ME, I JUST WANNA SHARE SOME OF THAT GOOD FORTUNE AROUND, LIKE WITH MY OL' BUDDY, SAM, Y'KNOW?!
YOU DO?
SURE I DO, PAL! SO FORGET IT! HERE'S WHAT WE'LL DO: WHY DON'T YOU COME AND STAY AT MY PLACE IN L.A. FOR A WHILE, SHOW YOUR WORK AROUND, MEET THE BIG NAMES-WE'LL HAVE FUN! THAT CAN BE YOUR BIRTHDAY PRESENT TO ME!
BUT er...
WE FLY IN TWO HOURS. I'LL SEND WILSON OVER TO ARRANGE THE DETAILS!!!
er... BUT-
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING, GIRLS!
Tee Hee
Tee Hee
Tee Hee
THERE YOU ARE. I'D BEGUN TO THINK YOU MUST HAVE PASSED OUT IN THERE.
I WAS TALKING WITH DICK.
APPROPRIATE PLACE FOR IT.
I JUST CAN'T FIGURE HIM OUT. THESE DAYS HE'S SUCH AN ASS-HOLE, BUT HE WAS BEING REALLY NICE JUST NOW, LIKE WHEN WE WERE KIDS...
THEN HE MUST WANT SOME-THING FROM YOU. SOME-THING HE CAN'T BUY, STEAL OR BULLY OUT OF YOU.
SO, ANYWAY, WHERE WERE WE?
...
MR. ZABEL? MY NAME IS WILSON. MR. BURGER HAS ASKED ME TO DRIVE YOU TO THE AIRPORT. I HAVE A CAR WAITING FOR YOU OUTSIDE.
?
EVER BEEN TO L.A. BEFORE, MR. ZABEL?

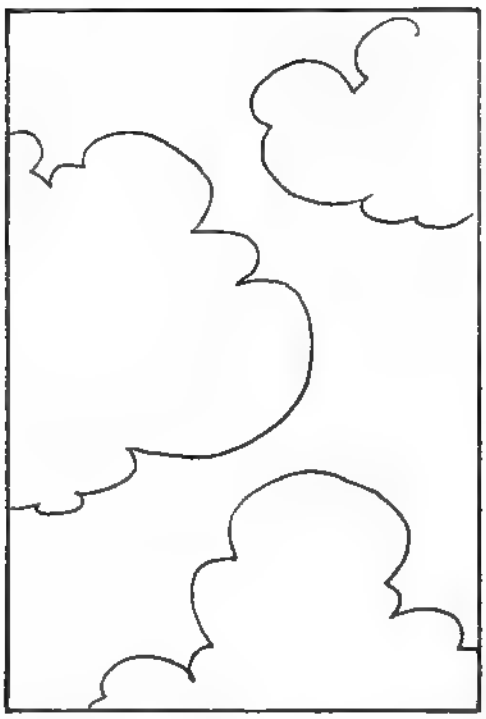
LOS ANGELES..?
IS THAT FAR FROM CINCINNATI?
MOXIE - SURELY YOU REALISE CIN-CINNATI IS IN OHIO?
OH SHIT! WOULD YOU TWO PLEASE JUST LEAVE ME ALONE?!
ARE YOU KIDDING?! THINGS ARE JUST START-ING TO GET INTEREST-ING. AFTER YEARS OF TEDIUM, SUDDENLY THERE'S SOME EXCITE-MENT: STRETCH LIMO'S, TRIPS TO L.A. SEX-CRAZED MOVIE-STARS...
MOVIE STARS? WHAT MOVIE STARS?
YOU MEAN TO SAY YOU DIDN'T RECOGNISE CINCINNATI WALKER, HEART-THROB OF THE 'SLACKER-PACK'? 'MIDNIGHT IN DETROIT', 'THE LAST TRAIN'? WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN THE LAST TWO YEARS, SAM?!
HE'S FAINTED.
I THINK THE WORD IS 'SWOONED', DEAR MOXIE.
SO HOW'RE YOU FEELING THIS MORNING, SAM..?!
TERRIBLE. HANGOVER. NO SLEEP.
HERE - TAKE A FEW OF THESE AND YOU'LL FEEL LIKE A MILLION BUCKS!

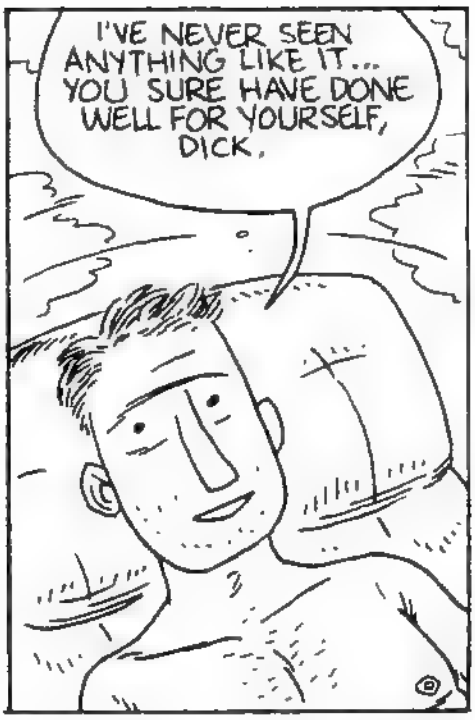
ACTUALLY, DICK, WHAT I FEEL LIKE IS SLEEPING, IF YOU DON'T MIND.
SURE! USE MY BED, IF YOU LIKE - IT'S THROUGH THERE!
THANKS, DICK. NICE PLANE.
YOU'RE FLYING 'BURGER CLASS', NOW, BUDDY!
Eek!
er
er
er
DICK - IS THAT YOU, DICK?
?
HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA
SORRY! SORRY! SORRY! SORRY! SORRY! SORRY!
SAM - LET ME GIVE YOU A PIECE OF ADVICE: LEARN TO EXPLOIT OPPORTUNITIES AS THEY ARISE!
PRIV
I'LL BE PASSED OUT OVER HERE IF YOU NEED ME TO BE THE BUTT OF ANY MORE PRACTICAL JOKES...

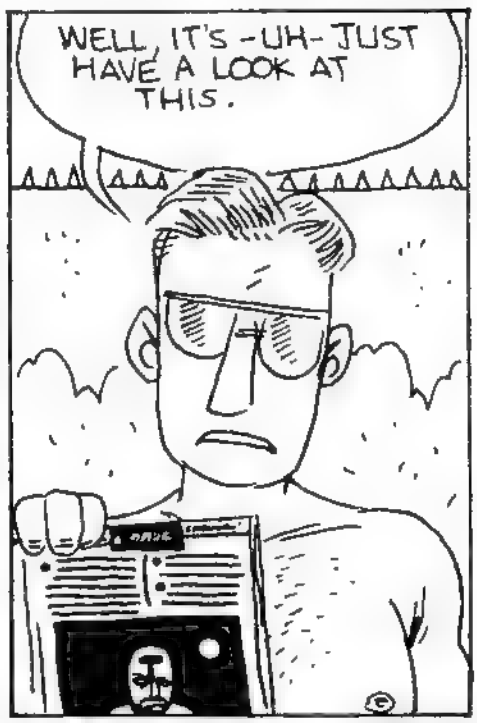

TUESDAY...
STARS
Part 3
NO, TODD, I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU THINK. I DON'T PAY YOU TO THINK - IF I DID, YOU'D HAVE BEEN FIRED A LONG TIME AGO!
BURGER ESTATE
STOP
YEAH, WELL, IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT YOU KNOW WHAT YOU CAN DO! I'VE GOT A HUNDRED YOUNG PENCILLERS WHO DRAW JUST LIKE YOU DO, WAITING IN LINE...
SURE, SURE, I'VE HEARD IT ALL BEFORE: "WHEN I HAD MY OWN COMPANY..." TODD - LISTEN! YOU HAD YOUR OWN COMPANY AND YOU BLEW IT! IF I HADN'T BOUGHT YOU OUT WHEN I DID, YOU'D BE QUEUEING AT CONVENTIONS WITH YOUR PORTFOLIO ALL OVER AGAIN!
SO SHUT UP AND DRAW IT LIKE I TELL YOU! NOW GET OFF THIS LINE - I'M BUSY!

GODDAMN PENCILLERS - THEY ALWAYS THINK THEY'RE THE STAR OF THE SHOW! HA! NOW WHERE WERE WE?!
er- WE'D JUST LEFT THE WINTER HALL...
OH YEAH - I CALL THIS THE HALL OF VILLAINS! EACH OF THESE PICTURES WAS COMMISSIONED ESPECIALLY FOR THE HOUSE. BE WORTH A MINT ON THE ORIGINAL ART MARKET!
UH-HUH.
JUST THROUGH HERE ARE THE BULLPEN AND OFFICE! IF YOU APPROACH FROM THE EAST WING, YOU COME DOWN THE HALL OF HEROES, OF COURSE!
FFICE
HERE WE GO! THE BURGER NERVE CENTRE! THIS IS WHERE I OVERSEE THE CREATION OF THE WORLD'S MOST SUCCESSFUL COMIC BOOKS!
GOOD MORNING MR. BURGER.
HOW'S IT HANGIN', GUYS?!
HELLO SIR.
MR. BURGER, SIR.
WELCOME BACK, SIR! WE WEREN'T EXPECTING YOU BACK UNTIL FRIDAY, SIR.
JUST KEEPING YOU ON YOUR TOES, ROGERS! SAM, THIS IS ROGERS, HEAD OF PRODUCTION! THIS IS SAM ZABEL - HE'LL BE STAYING HERE FOR A WHILE!
HI
SAM DRAWS COMICS, TOO, Y'KNOW! MAYBE YOU SHOULD CHECK OUT HIS PORTFOLIO!
WHATEVER YOU SAY, SIR.
uh--
COME ON, SAM - I'LL SHOW YOU AROUND.
THIS IS WHERE THE BEST IN THE BUSINESS TAKE WHAT I GIVE 'EM AND FLESH IT OUT! ZACK - SHOW SAM WHAT YOU'RE DOING HERE!
UH, YEAH, MR. BURGER SIR
THIS IS PAGE 25 OF THE NEXT CAPTAIN TOMORROW GRAPHIC NOVEL. ER - I DON'T KNOW IF I SHOULD--
THAT'S OK, ZACK. SAM HAS FULL SECURITY CLEARANCE! GO AHEAD!


OH, OK. WELL, THIS IS THE BIT WHERE THE NULLIFIER HAS STOLEN THE POWER OF EMON-PI FROM CAPTAIN TOMORROW AND NOW HE USES IT TO BLOW UP THIS PLANET - LIKE, TOTALLY DESTROYED WHOLE CIVILISATIONS AND MILLIONS OF SPECIES!
MM.. UH HUH.
AND THAT'S JUST FOR TARGET PRACTICE! IT'S PRETTY COOL! I'M PENCILLING IT FOR TOM, THE INKER.
FROM MY DETAILED LAYOUTS, NATURALLY!
UH... YEAH... THAT'S RIGHT, MR. BURGER, SIR...
AND THIS IS MY OFFICE!
GEE - IS THAT AN EISNER?
EISNERS, HARVEYS AND A COUPLE OF EMMY'S FOR THE CAPTAIN TOMORROW TV SERIES! OUR UPCOMING 'LADY NIGHT' MOVIE SHOULD BAG ME MY FIRST OSCAR!
!
THIS DOOR LEADS OUTSIDE TO THE POOL!
FANCY A DIP?!
HOLY SHIT







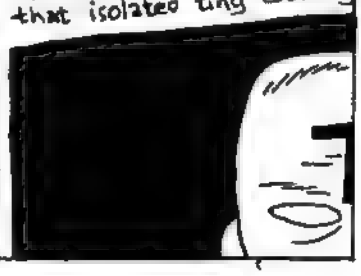
Dick Burger for Comic Book Hall of Fame.

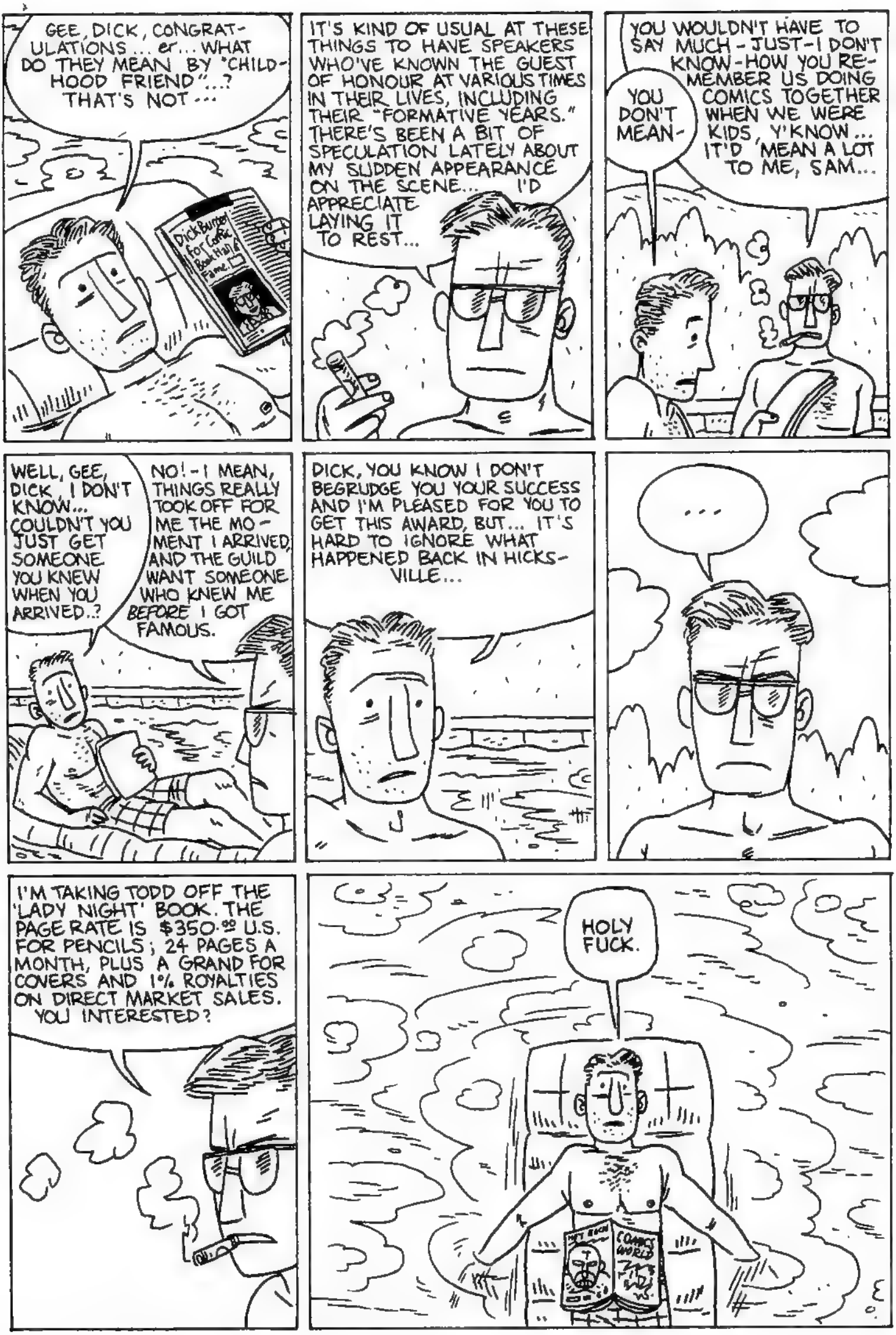
BY LEONARD BATTS (L.A)

•Eternal Comics and creator of the best-selling Captain Tomorrow, Lady Night and Smashfist graphic novels, Dick Burger is to be admitted to the Comic Book Hall of Fame in a special ceremony in New York on Saturday 25 February. The awards committee of the American Comics Creators Guild announced their decision last week, saying: "At only 30 years of age, Dick has already made such an impact on the industry and medium that we saw little point in waiting until he's as old as us before honoring him."

•Burger's career began a mere years ago when he sold

•The ceremony honouring Burger will be by invitatio only and will feature spee by such luminaries as Sta Lee, Joe Lumpen and Glor Vixenburg and also a childhood friend of Burger from New Zealand, who will tell the hitherto untold st of Burger's early years in that isolated tiny country



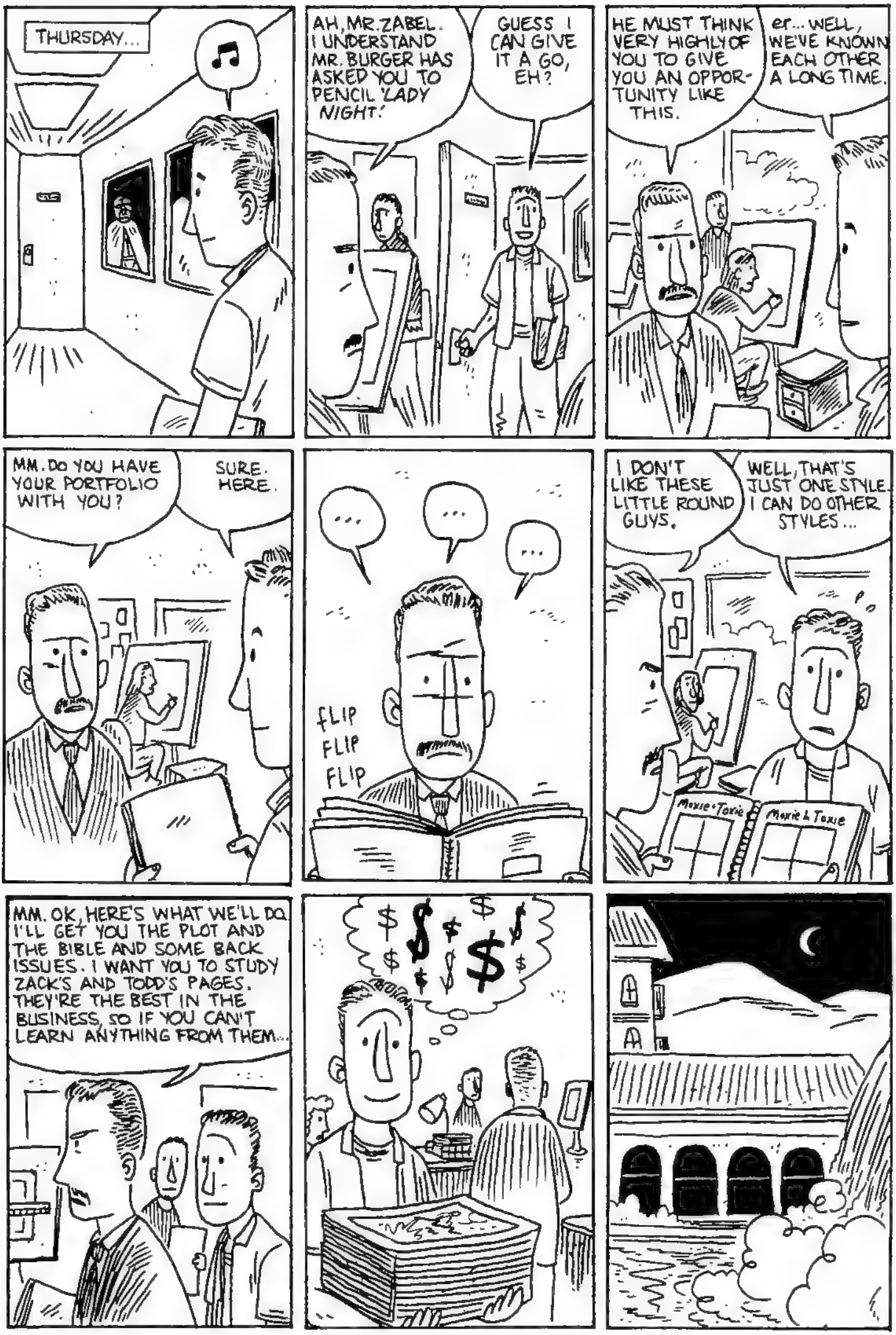

GEE, DICK, CONGRATULATIONS... er... WHAT DO THEY MEAN BY "CHILDHOOD FRIEND"...? THAT'S NOT...
Dick Burton for Comic Book Hall of Fame.
IT'S KIND OF USUAL AT THESE THINGS TO HAVE SPEAKERS WHO'VE KNOWN THE GUEST OF HONOUR AT VARIOUS TIMES IN THEIR LIVES, INCLUDING THEIR "FORMATIVE YEARS." THERE'S BEEN A BIT OF SPECULATION LATELY ABOUT MY SUDDEN APPEARANCE ON THE SCENE... I'D APPRECIATE LAYING IT TO REST...
YOU WOULDN'T HAVE TO SAY MUCH - JUST - I DON'T KNOW - HOW YOU REMEMBER US DOING COMICS TOGETHER WHEN WE WERE KIDS, Y'KNOW... IT'D MEAN A LOT TO ME, SAM...
YOU DON'T MEAN-
WELL, GEE, DICK, I DON'T KNOW... COULDN'T YOU JUST GET SOMEONE YOU KNEW WHEN YOU ARRIVED..?
NO! - I MEAN, THINGS REALLY TOOK OFF FOR ME THE MOMENT I ARRIVED, AND THE GUILD WANT SOMEONE WHO KNEW ME BEFORE I GOT FAMOUS.
DICK, YOU KNOW I DON'T BEGRUDGE YOU YOUR SUCCESS AND I'M PLEASED FOR YOU TO GET THIS AWARD, BUT... IT'S HARD TO IGNORE WHAT HAPPENED BACK IN HICKSVILLE...
...
I'M TAKING TODD OFF THE 'LADY NIGHT' BOOK. THE PAGE RATE IS $350.00 U.S. FOR PENCILS; 24 PAGES A MONTH, PLUS A GRAND FOR COVERS AND 1% ROYALTIES ON DIRECT MARKET SALES. YOU INTERESTED?
HOLY FUCK.
COMICS WORLD

WEDNESDAY...
UNIVERSE STUDIOS
AH, MR. BURGER- HOW NICE TO SEE YOU TODAY! WE WEREN'T EXPECTING YOU UNTIL NEXT WEEK...
HI GRIMES!
YEAH, WELL, I COULDN'T JUST LEAVE YOU TO SCREW UP WHILE I HAD A HOLIDAY, SO I CAME BACK EARLY!
er... SPLENDID!
CUT!
WHAT THE FUCK IS - OH, IT'S YOU, MR. BURGER! WELCOME BACK, SIR!
THANKS, TOM. HOW WE DOING HERE?!
JUST FINE, MR. BURGER. WE'RE SHOOTING SCENE 34, WHERE LADY NIGHT DECAPITATES DEATHSCUM WITH A PIECE OF DENTAL FLOSS.
COOL! THIS I GOTTA SEE!
TIME OUT, EVERYONE! FIVE MINUTES FROM NOW!
CINCINNATI!
SAM? WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING HERE?!
VISITING. YOU LOOK RIDICULOUS.
THANKS. I'M THE DAUGHTER OF DARKNESS, WISE GUY.
THE TITS COME WITH THE COSTUME.
YOU TWO KNOW EACH OTHER?!
WE MET AT YOUR PARTY.
EXCUSE ME, CIN- JUST A MAKEUP CHECK.
SURE.
CINCINNATI'S PLAYING 'LADY NIGHT'?
SURE! SHES HOT, EH?!
AH, WELL, ER-

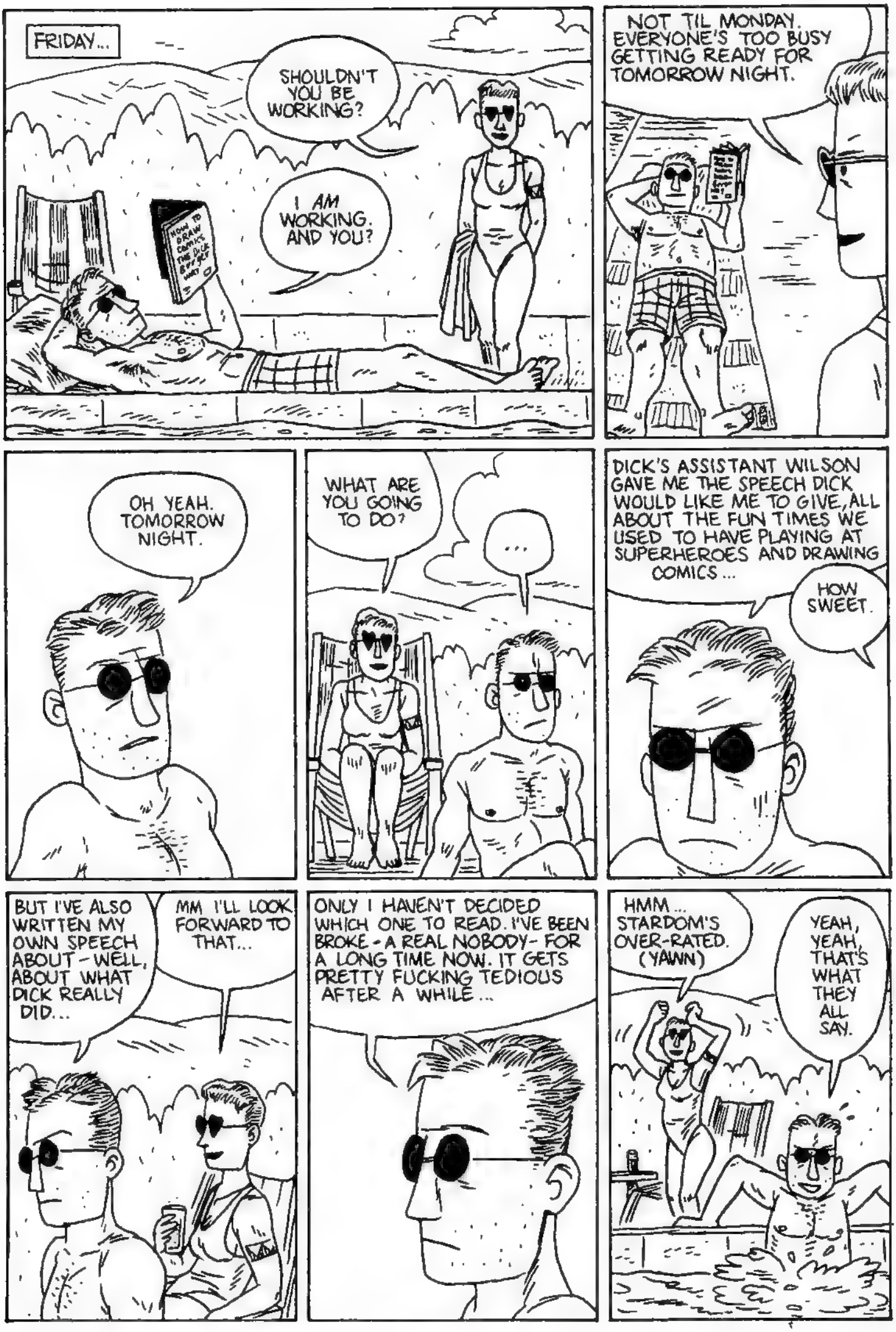
WATCH HER, THOUGH - SHE'S GOT QUITE A REPUTATION!
OH? WHAT KIND OF REPUT-ATION?
SIR? TELE-PHONE FOR YOU SIR.
LOOK, TODD, YOU'RE THROUGH, YOU HEAR ME?! I DON'T CARE WHAT YOUR SO-CALLED 'FANS' THINK, YOU'RE SHIT! IN A FEW MONTHS THE LITTLE FUCKS WILL HAVE FORGOTTEN YOU!
OH YEAH?! WELL - SAYONARA, BUDDY!!
...
IF HE CALLS AGAIN, YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO!
YES, SIR.
OK - BACK TO WORK! MR. BURGER DOESN'T WANT TO BE KEPT WAITING!
HEADS ARE GONNA ROLL - (YUK! YUK!)
THE LAST CAPTAIN TOMORROW MOVIE WAS THE BIGGEST GROSSING PICTURE OF THE YEAR, SO THE STUDIO'S GIVEN US MONEY TO BURN FOR THIS ONE!
WHAT'S IT CALLED?
'LADY NIGHT: DEATH BABE!' IT'S FREELY ADAPTED FROM THE 'ARTERIAL SPRAY' STORY ARC!
OH.
...AND ACTION!
WACK!
SLIT-
TWANG
CUT! BEAUTIFUL! THAT'S OUR TAKE!
GREAT SEQUENCE, GUYS! HOW ABOUT A CAST AND CREW PARTY AT MY PLACE TONIGHT?! SOON AS YOU WRAP UP FOR THE DAY!

SO THIS IS THE BURGER COMICS COLLECTION, EH? NOT A PATCH ON MRS. HICKS, OF COURSE, BUT NOT BAD, CONSIDERING.
WOW! OLD LOU GOLDMAN 'LADY NIGHT'S'! MAN, I HAVEN'T READ THESE FOR TWENTY YEARS!! I LOVE THIS STUFF!
THOUGHT I'D FIND YOU IN HERE! GO AHEAD - BORROW WHATEVER YOU WANT!
REALLY? THANKS, DICK!
COURIER JUST DROPPED THIS IN - IT'S THE STUFF YOU WANTED FROM HOME!
THANK GOD! I CAN FINALLY CHANGE MY SHIRT!
HELLO! A LETTER - FROM SALLY!
CALVINO
Dear Sam -
I'm terrible at saying this kind of thing in person, so I'm afraid I'm sending you a letter. I really enjoyed our coffee the other night & I can't stop thinking of you. I hope you want to get together again soon - for a date?! Ring me.
-Sally
beep bip beep bip beep
HELLO?
HI - IS SALLY THERE?
NO - SHE'S AWAY UNTIL THE WEEKEND. D'YOU WANT TO LEAVE A MESSAGE?

MAN THIS SUCKS. WHO IS THAT BAND?!
er. DIRE STRAITS, I THINK...
FIGURES. I'D GO HOME IF IT WEREN'T FOR YOU.
UM- LOOK, CIN, IT'S - I REALLY THINK I SHOULD EXPLAIN ...
I MEAN, IF THINGS WERE A BIT SIMPLER, I'D BE AFTER YOU LIKE A SHOT. BUT, WELL, I'D ONLY JUST MET SOMEONE A COUPLE OF DAYS BEFORE DICK'S PARTY BACK HOME. AND, WELL, YOU'RE A BEAUTIFUL MOVIE STAR AND I'M JUST A NOBODY, AND I - er - -
WHAT ARE YOU GRINNING ABOUT?!
THAT'S VERY SWEET.
DON'T WORRY, SAM, I'M NOT ON THE PROWL FOR A RELATIONSHIP. I DON'T REALLY LIKE MEN THAT MUCH. I'M JUST A CHRONIC FLIRT...
WELL, THAT'S A RELIEF, I GUESS. I'M JUST TOO HOMESICK AND CONFUSED AT THE MOMENT, EVEN IF YOU ARE ONE OF THE SEXIEST WOMEN I'VE EVER MET...
SO HOWABOUT A FUCK?


THURSDAY...
AH, MR. ZABEL. I UNDERSTAND MR. BURGER HAS ASKED YOU TO PENCIL 'LADY NIGHT.'
GUESS I CAN GIVE IT A GO, EH?
HE MUST THINK VERY HIGHLY OF YOU TO GIVE YOU AN OPPORTUNITY LIKE THIS.
er... WELL, WE'VE KNOWN EACH OTHER A LONG TIME.
MM. DO YOU HAVE YOUR PORTFOLIO WITH YOU?
SURE. HERE.
FLIP FLIP FLIP
I DON'T LIKE THESE LITTLE ROUND GUYS.
WELL, THAT'S JUST ONE STYLE. I CAN DO OTHER STYLES...
Moxie • Toxie
Moxie & Toxie
MM. OK, HERE'S WHAT WE'LL DO. I'LL GET YOU THE PLOT AND THE BIBLE AND SOME BACK ISSUES. I WANT YOU TO STUDY ZACK'S AND TODD'S PAGES. THEY'RE THE BEST IN THE BUSINESS, SO IF YOU CAN'T LEARN ANYTHING FROM THEM...

Sigh
CRAPPED OUT AGAIN EH, WISE GUY?
COME ON, SAM. THERE'S BIG MONEY RIDING ON THIS - IT'S OUR TICKET TO THE HIGH LIFE!
BLADE NIGHT
I WANTED TO TRY TO RECAPTURE THE FRESH MOODINESS OF LOU GOLDMAN'S WORK, BUT IT'S IMPOSSIBLE WITH THIS SCRIPT...
AH, BUT YOU HAVE TO DRAW WHAT THE PUBLIC WANT.
WELL THIS ISN'T WHAT I WANT! ZACK'S UNDERSTANDING OF ANATOMY IS NON-EXISTENT AND TOM SEEMS TO HAVE INKED IT WITH A NEEDLE - ALL THESE SCRATCHY LINES - NO FORM BENEATH IT. IT'S ALL PIN-UPS AND SPLASH PAGES WITH NO STORY-TELLING SENSE!
NICE BUTT ON THAT ONE!
I'VE TRIED AND TRIED, BUT I JUST CAN'T DO IT...
THAT'S BECAUSE YOUR TRUE CALLING IS THOSE LOSER AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL STRIPS AND MOVING EPISTEMOLOGICAL TREATISES STARRING NONE OTHER THAN US.
MAYBE YOU HAVE TO BE YOUNG AND HYPERACTIVE TO DO THIS STUFF...
PERHAPS AN INJECTION OF TESTOSTERONE WOULD HELP?
SIGH - I'LL TRY AGAIN IN THE MORNING...
HEY - THIS ONE LOOKS LIKE CINCINNATI - PLUS STEROIDS, OF COURSE.


FRIDAY...
SHOULDN'T YOU BE WORKING?
I AM WORKING. AND YOU?
HOW TO DRAW COMICS THE DICK BY MYSELF MANY
NOT TIL MONDAY. EVERYONE'S TOO BUSY GETTING READY FOR TOMORROW NIGHT.
OH YEAH. TOMORROW NIGHT.
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?
...
DICK'S ASSISTANT WILSON GAVE ME THE SPEECH DICK WOULD LIKE ME TO GIVE, ALL ABOUT THE FUN TIMES WE USED TO HAVE PLAYING AT SUPERHEROES AND DRAWING COMICS...
HOW SWEET.
BUT I'VE ALSO WRITTEN MY OWN SPEECH ABOUT - WELL, ABOUT WHAT DICK REALLY DID...
MM I'LL LOOK FORWARD TO THAT...
ONLY I HAVEN'T DECIDED WHICH ONE TO READ. I'VE BEEN BROKE - A REAL NOBODY - FOR A LONG TIME NOW. IT GETS PRETTY FUCKING TEDIOUS AFTER A WHILE...
HMM... STARDOM'S OVER-RATED. (YAWN)
YEAH, YEAH, THAT'S WHAT THEY ALL SAY.

SATURDAY...
SAM, I JUST WANTED TO SAY THANKS FOR DOING THIS.
LOOK, DICK, I -
LADY NIGHT!
THERE'S NO HOT CHOCOLATE, SO I GOT YOU A VODKA.
HI, CINCIN! GLAD YOU COULD COME!
WOULDN'T MISS THIS FOR THE WORLD, DICK.
HA HA - WELL, I'D BETTER GO GET CHANGED! TOUCH-DOWN IN TWO HOURS!
ASS-HOLE.
I CAN'T UNDERSTAND HOW THE GUILD CAN PUT DICK IN THEIR STUPID HALL OF FAME, BUT NOT LOU GOLD-MAN.
LOU WHO?
HE CREATED 'LADY NIGHT'! SURELY YOU'VE -
HMPH. I DON'T READ COMICS, SAM, I JUST DRESS UP LIKE 'EM FOR A LIVING.
LADY NIGHT
LOU WAS ONE OF THE BEST CARTOONISTS OF THE FIFTIES. HIS 'LADY NIGHT' WAS COMPLETELY DIFFERENT TO DICK'S. IT WAS EXCITING, A BIT SAD AND VERY MORAL AND HUMANE. BUT HE'S NEVER BEEN TREATED WELL BY THE INDUSTRY.
LADY NIGHT
STILL, HE SHOULD DO ALRIGHT OUT OF THE MOVIE.
I DOUBT IT. HE'S NEVER OWNED THE COPYRIGHT TO LADY NIGHT. HE'D BE LUCKY EVEN TO GET A CREDIT.

OH. AND THIS IS HIS LADY NIGHT? CAN I READ IT?
SURE. YOUR DIRECTOR MIGHT NOT APPROVE, THOUGH.
LADY NIGHT
FUCK MY DIRECTOR. OR ON SECOND THOUGHTS, DON'T- HE'D PROBABLY GIVE YOU A PART IN HIS NEXT MOVIE.
YOU DON'T MEAN YOU-
HEY-GIVE ME SOME CREDIT- WHAT DO YOU THINK I'VE GOT AN AGENT FOR?
LADY NIGHT
SHEEIT! THIS AIN'T THE DAUGHTER OF DARKNESS I KNOW! PAGE 5 AND NOBODY'S DEAD YET! AND HER CHEST- WHY, IT'S ALMOST BELIEVABLE!
HA! YOU'RE READING A REAL COMIC NOW, MATE!
WHAT POWER THE ORB HOLDS! COULD IT BE THAT THIS IS WHAT TURNED ARLON TO EVIL? AND WHAT MAY IT DO TO KYROS... OR TO ME?!
LADY NIGHT! HAVE YOU THE ORB?!
HAVE PATIENCE, KYROS!
HERE!
LET ME HAVE IT!! WITHOUT IT WE ARE BOTH LOST!!
YOU ARE ALREADY LOST, KYROS- LOST TO EVIL AND DARKNESS! I CANNOT ALLOW YOU TO GAIN THE ORB OF ARLON AND ITS POWER!

TO BE CONCLUDED...

Café Underground.

As Mrs. Hicks mentioned earlier, the writer and artist on Café Underground, Abe Zenas and Barney Hotere, have put Café on hold until they can sort out their differences. In the interests of speeding that process up, I asked each of them to provide a written summary of their grievances, which we present here. Until things are resolved and they are happy to work together again, we will present excerpts from Barney's other work in progress, A Cartoon History of Aotearoa (see issue 3 and elsewhere in this issue).

— Dylan

Café Underground is a story very dear to me. It describes events which occurred to myself and my group of friends some 9 years ago, events which changed our lives. Writing it has been a process of coming to an understanding of those events and of the forces that make the world turn and that fuel the ongoing conflict between all that is good and all that is evil in life.

Therefore, it is painful for me to see that story twisted in the hands of its illustrator. Since the very first episode, Barney has been distorting the truth, filling his drawings with details that are not from my script, and which imply certain things which are untrue. I have raised this matter with him on a number of occasions. At first, he simply denied that he was adding anything other than background with no bearing on the story. At length, however, he was forced to admit that he had suggested through his pictures that certain relationships existed or that my own descriptions of certain things were incorrect. But still he defended his actions and claimed that his knowledge of the events described was sounder than my own.

I wish to state categorically that he is wrong, on two counts. First, in 1986, Barney was barely at the fringes of the group of friends I am describing. If he knew us at all, it was not at a level where he would be in as good a position as me to describe what happened that fateful year. Secondly, regardless of whether that is true, his role is that of an illustrator, not an author. My scripts are the manuscript; he is to do no more than a typesetter who turns a manuscript into a printed text. He is to bring my words to life and translate them into a visual equivalence. But he has no right to subvert what I am attempting to say with my story. Worse still, he must not change the very dialogue and text at all, which is his latest and most serious transgression (committed last episode.)

Until Barney understands this I can not trust him to be a reliable collaborator on my work.

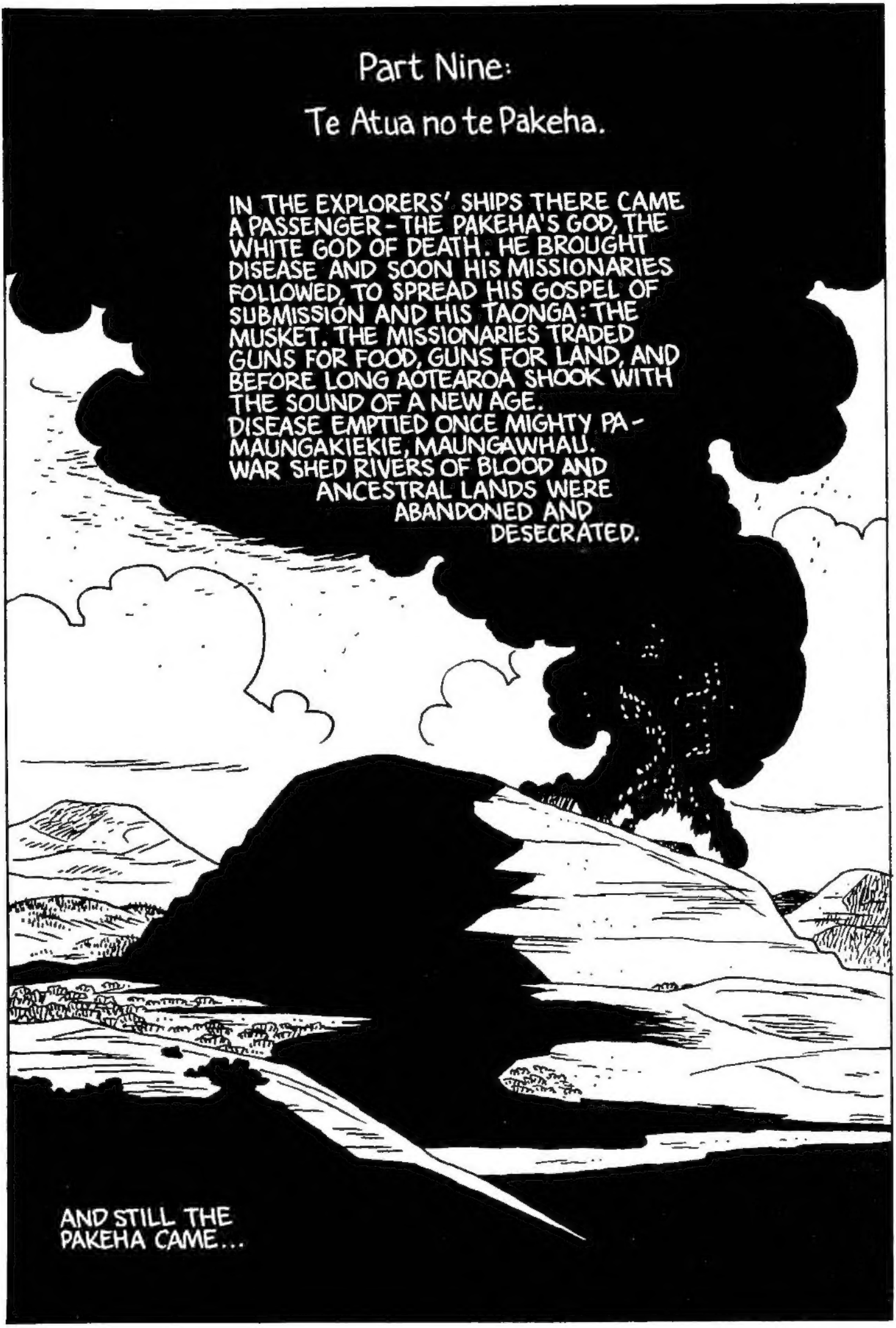
— Abe Zenas
author, Café Underground

Abe has accused me of distorting his story. Well, he's got a funny idea of cartooning. For one thing, if two people are working together on a story, then there's got to be a bit of give and take; it's a collaboration, not just a matter of one person illustrating the other's work. It's a partnership. Abe just wants to run the whole show. I get to decide what shape the street lights are, but that's about it. That simply won't work.

For another, Abe has his idea of what happened all those years ago when Gabriel turned up, and I have my idea. Let's just say they aren't always exactly the same. I don't see why his should necessarily be any more reliable; on the contrary, I had as much interest in what was going on as he did, and without some of the dubious speculation. I don't want to go over any really sore points, because I hope after this little blow out, Abe and I can find a way to carry on, but it's important for me to say that one of the other people who is in this story and saw these events first hand now lives with me, and she backs up my version of things. So it's unfair for Abe to say that he's the only one who knows what happened.

I don't see why we can't both put in our 10 cents worth in, and create a comic together, which reflects both our perspectives on this thing. Hell, writing is one thing, but drawing takes a lot longer and is hard work; I'm not going to do all that work for nothing if I can't get to say my piece. I'm interested, too, in the big picture that surrounded the events in 1986, something I want to reflect in there, which Abe is unhappy about. Abe's got to learn to work together, and to let me do things my way a bit. Let's face it, until he learns to draw, he's stuck with me. I mean, I could go away and do my own story about this, only Abe would probably sue me, and besides, I don't want to have to do that. Quite aside from the fact that I don't want to let Mrs. Hicks down, I think we've got a good thing going together, and I'd like to see us finish it.

— Barney Hotere
co-author, Café Underground


Part Nine:
Te Atua no te Pakeha.
IN THE EXPLORERS' SHIPS THERE CAME A PASSENGER - THE PAKEHA'S GOD, THE WHITE GOD OF DEATH. HE BROUGHT DISEASE AND SOON HIS MISSIONARIES FOLLOWED, TO SPREAD HIS GOSPEL OF SUBMISSION AND HIS TAONGA: THE MUSKET. THE MISSIONARIES TRADED GUNS FOR FOOD, GUNS FOR LAND, AND BEFORE LONG AOTEAROA SHOOK WITH THE SOUND OF A NEW AGE.
DISEASE EMPTIED ONCE MIGHTY PA - MAUNGAKIEKIE, MAUNGAWHAU.
WAR SHED RIVERS OF BLOOD AND ANCESTRAL LANDS WERE ABANDONED AND DESECRATED.
AND STILL THE PAKEHA CAME...

The Hicksville Hit Parade

Last time, we had part one of Hicksville Record Shop proprietor Debs Haversham's report from her visit to America. This issue, the second part of her guide to what she found.

Well, shit! Last issue, I barely got to finish talking about Seattle, which may be a gone place music-wise, but is busy busy busy on the comics front. In fact, I still left out a few people like Dave Collier (though he used to be based in Canada)... And since then, what do you know, Tom Hart has joined Jason Lutes at Black Eye with his New Hat. So this time, I'll zoom through a few other places.

San Francisco and the Bay Area boasts not only famous ink-stud Dan Clowes, but also the young and crazy Adrian Tomine, whose great comic Optic Nerve has just gone from Mini-land to Drawn & Quarterly. Also, Brian Biggs, whose Frederick and Eloise came out a while ago from Fantagraphics; it's a treasure! And then there's Jeff Levine, the mad genius behind Destroy All Comics (which has the best title of any comics zine ever published), which is published by Slave Labor, and Dylan Williams of Horse fame.

Phoenix, Arizona is the HQ of the lovely Eric Searleman, whose mini Phenicribe has now metamorphosed into Jazzbo, published by Slave Labor. (By the way, Eric, Jeff, and Brian all share the same irresistible No. 1 haircut as Black Eye publisher Michel Vrána; a very sexy little cut which we here in Aotearoa call 'a Possum cut')
In Austin, Texas, I found that old wit Matthew Madden, whose chic little number, Terrifying Steamboat Stories, is Available from PO Box 49267, Austin TX 78765.

I only remember a day or two of New York — I'd swallowed something in Arizona which wiped out the following two weeks, but one thing I could never forget is the extraordinary Sam Henderson, known to the world as the funniest man alive, and author of innumerable hilarious mini's, which you can order from 14 Bayard St. #3, Brooklyn, NY 11211. Send him $10.00 for 5 'Magic Whistles', and $4.00 for a grab bag of minis, including 'Night of 100 Assholes' and 'Sam Henderson, Texas Ranger'. Also, watch out for Sam in Destroy All Comics and Heavy Metal (yes, Heavy Metal, where wacky Mark Martin is editing a great centre-section of strips).

I also popped into Canada briefly, where those three charmers, Seth, Joe and Chester showed me such a good time I probably can't talk about it in print (although I fully expect Joe to). If you aren't already reading Palooka-ville, Peep Show, and Underwater, as well as Julie Doucet's Dirty Plotte, then what are you? (All published by sweet old Chris and Marina at Drawn & Quarterly). Other highlights in that fine country of maple syrup and donuts were Nick Craine and Jay Stephens (Nick's Dance Me Outside and Jay's Atomic City Tales are both published by Black Eye). And as for Michel at Black Eye, well, what can I say? He's out there, girls, and he's eligible! Woo-woo! Better get in quick, though, 'cause he's moved to Montreal now and it's only a matter of time once that bubbling town finds out about him...

Lastly, a couple of people I never got drunk with (Chicago was not on my itinerary, sadly), but wished I had: Chris Ware, whose Acme Novely Library (Fantagraphics) is simply it! And Jessica Abel, whose Artbabe ($1.50 from 1573 North Milwaukee #423, Chicago, Illinois 60622) is irresistible.

A GLOSSARY OF NEW ZEALAND TERMS

Aotearoa: *"Land of the Long Cloud", a Maori name for New Zealand*

Auckland: *largest city in New Zealand (population c. 1 million)*

Maori: *indigenous people of Aotearoa/New Zealand*

Maungakiekei: *also known as One Tree Hill, Auckland*

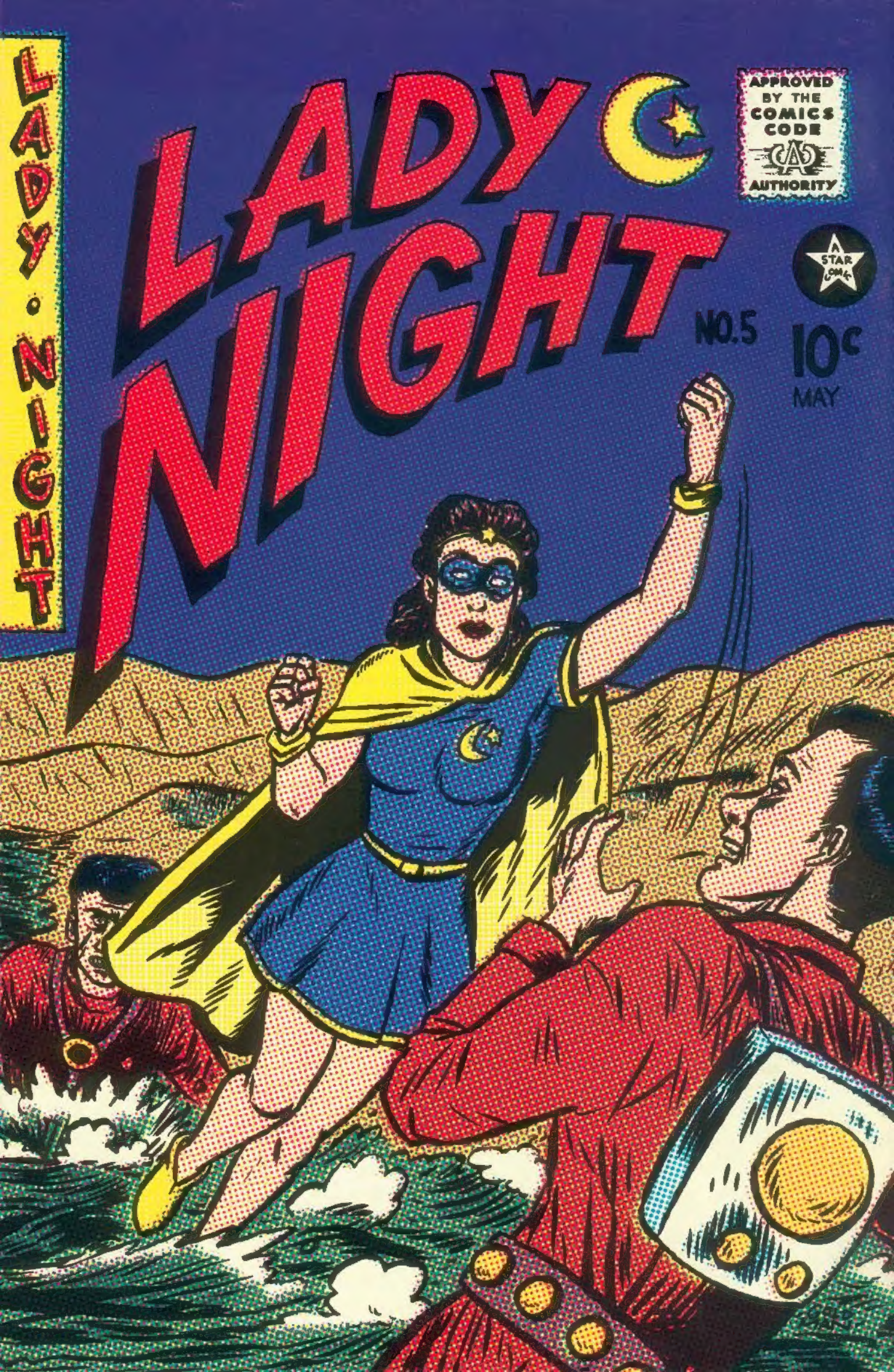
Maungawhau: *also known as Mt. Eden, Auckland*

Pa: *hill-fort*

Pakeha: *white person/people*

Ta Atua no te Pakeha: *"the God of the Pakeha"*

Taonga: *treasure*


LADY NIGHT
LADY NIGHT
NO.5
10c
MAY
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
A STAR COMIC